

## Courthouse Badges are Here!

Back in our [July newsletter](#) we hinted at our soon-to-be-released Courthouse Pilot Project recognition badges. Well, the time has arrived!

To thank the dedicated volunteers who participated in the project, we've created 4 brand new badges. Check them out and see if your name is on the list!

Check out our [updated recognition page](#) for more information!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Courthouse Badges are Here!](#)
- 2 [Volunteer Q&A: What's Your Favorite Structure to Edit?](#)
- 2 [New Structure Feature! Introducing City/Town Halls](#)
- 2 [New Mapping Challenge: Texas Law Enforcement](#)
- 3 [American Architecture Part 2](#)
- 6 [Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 7: Law Enforcement](#)
- 9 [TNMCorps Puzzle](#)
- 10 [Recognition](#)



115



29



13



10

## Volunteer Q&A: What's your Favorite Structure to Edit?

In our [July newsletter](#) we shared our favorite structure types to edit and asked you to do the same!

Our dedicated longtime volunteer [meyerkv](#) heeded the call:

*"I've enjoyed editing points for the Post Offices and Courthouses. These structures vary widely and can be unique, particularly the courthouses. The architecture of the courthouses varies, of course, from the outstanding to horrific ("what were they thinking?"). It is fun to look at and guess the architectural styles. But my particularly favorite points are not a particular type of point but adding new points to The National Map. For example, this morning, I added icons for two post offices in Georgia, [Cobbtown](#) and [Collins](#). It feels good to identify a missing structure that belongs on the National Map."*

*Collins Post Office, Collins, GA*



If you'd also like to share the types of structures you prefer editing and why, reach out to us at [nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov](mailto:nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov) and you could be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

## New Structure Feature! Introducing City/Town Halls

News flash! We will soon be adding city and town halls to our fine collection of structure features! We are still in the process of updating our documentation to reflect this new addition, but we got too excited to keep this surprise to ourselves.



We expect to open up collection of this new feature sometime within the next couple of weeks, so if you're ready for a change, keep your eyes peeled for those new city/town hall icons!

## New Mapping Challenge: Texas Law Enforcement

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Georgia Post Office mapping challenge! It was a success with over 800 points contributed by 16 volunteers. Check out our [Mapping Challenges page](#) for more stats on this challenge.

Our new mapping challenge will focus on **law enforcement points in the Lone Star State of Texas**. Use our handy [Interactive Challenge Map](#) to find points for this challenge that need to be checked or peer-reviewed.

When editing, a few things to be on the lookout for are bailiffs and jails. We are not collecting points for jails (i.e. short term holding facilities) or law enforcement that only functions as jail security. We are also not collecting points for law enforcement whose only duty is to assist the courts (i.e., bailiffs). Check out our [Structures List](#) for more on the features that do and do not fall under our definition of a law enforcement facility. The official release of this challenge on our [Mapping Challenges page](#) also includes more details on the types of law enforcement entities active in Texas.

If you have any questions about this mapping challenge or the editing process in general, reach out to us at [nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov](mailto:nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov)

## American Architecture Part 2

*This article is the second in a three-part series detailing prominent American architectural styles.*

Researching structures for The National Map Corps leads one to explore different regions and their cultures via map imagery and local websites. In doing so, it is easy to become intrigued by the various [phases of American architecture](#), some of which date back to the birth of our nation.



In our [last newsletter](#) we covered the colonial period by describing Georgian and Federal style architectures. In this article, we will focus on the Greek, Gothic, and Italianate Revival styles and discuss how our Founding Fathers continued to influence the architecture of their time.

*While this list does not cover every US architectural period, some of the more prominent periods to emerge during our nation's early history include:*

### Colonial (1600s - 1800s)

Georgian  
Federal  
French  
Spanish

### Revival (early-1800s)

Greek  
Italianate  
Gothic

### Gilded Age (mid- to late-1800s)

Late Victorian  
Beaux-Arts  
Arts and Crafts (early-1900s)  
20th century Revivalism

### Greek Revival: early- to mid-1800s

Following the trend of [Federal style](#) architecture, Greek Revival was the next architectural style to take hold in the United States.

Architectural elements of Greek

Revival include:

- Simple, rectangular floor plans
- [Temple-fronted facades](#)
- [Doric columns](#)
- Triangular pediments
- [Rectangular transom windows or bars](#) (e.g., a horizontal element whose purpose is to visually separate the entryway from rest of the building)

#### Parthenon



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/da/The\\_Parthenon\\_in\\_Athens.jpg/300px-The\\_Parthenon\\_in\\_Athens.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/da/The_Parthenon_in_Athens.jpg/300px-The_Parthenon_in_Athens.jpg)



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/46/Chapiteau-Parthenon.jpg>

By Codex [CC BY-SA 3.0  
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Wikimedia Commons

**[Doric columns](#) are cylindrical with two flanges (one circular, one square) on top; the shaft is the column's cylindrical body while the capital is the two flanges at the column's top.**

Temple-fronted facades and transoms represent a stark change from the Georgian and Federal styles whose simple (and often flat) facades were accented by curved windows and fanlights. When trying to determine the inspirational source that architects used for Greek Revival, one needs look no further than the Parthenon.

Courthouses exhibit this type of architecture more so than other feature types. This is not surprising given that our nation's Founding Fathers looked to the ancient democracies of Greece for inspiration for how to structure our nation's government. [Thomas Jefferson](#) himself played a role in introducing the Greek Revival architectural style to early-19th century towns. Fascinated by Greek Revival details, Jefferson appointed the architect [Benjamin Latrobe](#) to the position of public building surveyor. Soon after the [War of 1812](#), Latrobe was [promoted to the position of Architect of the Capitol](#) to help with the design and repair of several buildings in our nation's capital that were damaged during the war. Some of Latrobe's works include [the United States Capitol building](#); hence the abundance of Doric columns along the National Mall.

*Continued on [next page](#)*

## American Architecture Part 2 (Continued)

<https://des.wa.gov/capitol-campus-interactive-map>



*Where are these structures today?* TNMCorps editors will find structures with Greek Revival design elements all throughout the nation. The style was so popular along the eastern coast during the 19th century that settlers carried its design elements west, making it the “[first architectural style to reach the west coast.](#)”

Just look at the classical Greek design elements incorporated into the [Washington State Supreme Courthouse](#) (aka, the Temple of Justice).

*The Temple of Justice was constructed in the Beaux Arts architectural style, but contains several elements illustrative of the Greek Revival style. This particular structure is a good example of future styles looking back to their predecessors (e.g. Greek Revival) for influence.*

*Other prime examples of Greek Revival structures collected by TNMCorps volunteers include the [New York Court of Appeals Building](#) (NY), the [Sandusky County Courthouse](#) (OH), and the [Claiborne Parish Courthouse](#) (LA).*

### Gothic Revival: mid-1800s

Gothic Revival was another popular architectural style of the 19th century, which [Latrobe also incorporated](#) into his works. The Industrial Revolution was taking hold during this period and the general public sought an architectural style that offered respite from [mechanized urbanization](#) and [the bland appearance of factories](#). Enter Gothic Revival: an elaborate and ornate architectural style that is most often seen in religious structures.

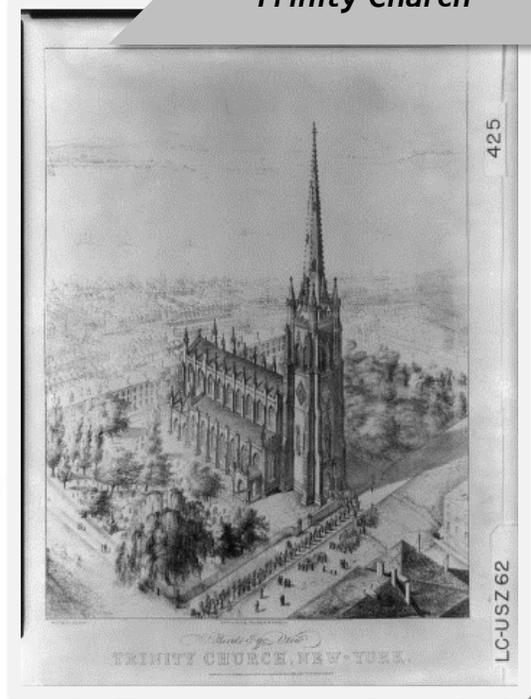
Features of Gothic Revival architecture include:

- [Pointed arches](#) incorporated into the facade
- [Lancet windows](#) (tall, narrow windows with pointed arches)
- [Hood moulds](#) (a lip or projection incorporated into the facade to shield the opening from rainwater)
- Gargoyles to discharge rainwater away from the building
- [Fancy carvings](#)
- [Steep-sloping roofs](#)
- [Finials](#)

One cannot speak of Gothic Revival architecture and religious structures without mentioning [Trinity Church](#) in New York City. Trinity Church is the quintessential example of Gothic Revival, which is one of the primary reasons why it is registered as a National Historic Landmark.

The structure that exists today was designed by [Richard Upjohn](#) and is actually the [third reconstruction](#); the first building was destroyed by fire during the Revolutionary War while the second structure succumbed to architectural failure. The third structure is still standing and has a prominent view of Wall Street.

### Trinity Church

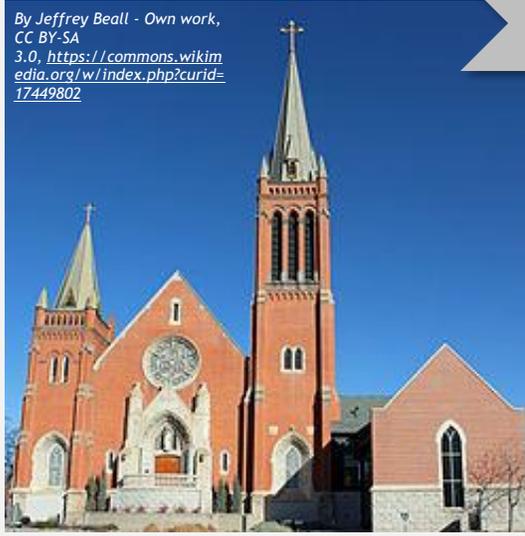


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity\\_Church\\_\(Manhattan\)#/media/File:Trinity\\_Church\\_Bird%27s\\_Eye\\_View\\_New\\_York\\_City\\_1846.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_Church_(Manhattan)#/media/File:Trinity_Church_Bird%27s_Eye_View_New_York_City_1846.jpg)

## American Architecture Part 2 (Continued)

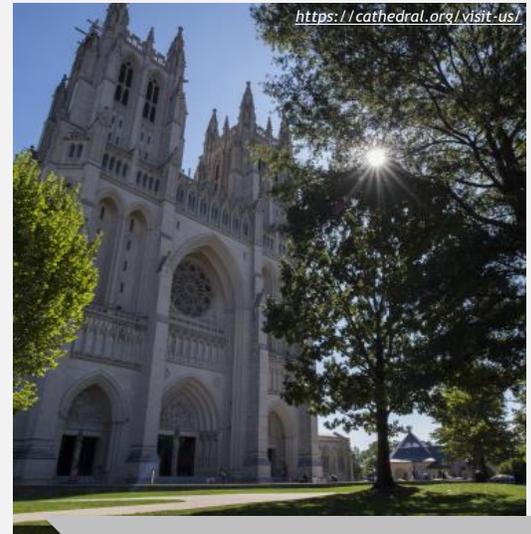
**Where are these structures today?** Trinity Church is home to the [Trinity Church Cemetery](#) which is captured as a feature in the web editor. While editing you may come across other examples of Gothic Revival structures, especially when editing cemeteries. A few examples include the [Washington National Cathedral Columbarium and Memorial Garden](#) (right-hand image) in Washington, D.C. and [Saint Mary's Cathedral Columbarium](#) (left-hand image) in Colorado Springs.

By Jeffrey Beall - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17449802>



*Saint Mary's Cathedral*

Did You Know there's a [Darth Vader "Gargoyle"](#) on the Washington National Cathedral??



*Washington National Cathedral*

### Italianate Revival: mid- to late- 1800s

Italianate Revival architecture was the next architectural style to surface. It was [introduced by architect Alexander Jackson Davis](#) as an alternative to the more formal Gothic and Greek Revival styles. This style became quite popular throughout the Midwest as the frontier moved westward, most likely because it accommodated small budgets and limited access to construction materials; important considerations when you're out on the frontier with the nearest town miles away. Other sources attribute the style's popularity to [its resemblance to rambling Italian farmhouses](#), which homesteads on the frontier sought to mimic.

Features of Italianate architecture include:

- [Low-pitched roofs](#)
- [Overhanging eaves with large, decorative brackets](#) or [corbels](#)
- [Tall, narrow windows](#)
- [Quoins](#), or masonry blocks, at the corner of the building
- [Cupolas](#) or towers

Italianate Revival soon ousted Gothic Revival and became the most favored architectural style as the Civil War was unfolding.



By Keith Brewster - Self-photographed, CC BY-SA 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32539083>

*For example, in this image of the Geauga County Courthouse, you can see the building's ornate detail which includes quoins (i.e., vertically-stacked masonry blocks on the building's corner), tall and narrow windows, low-pitched roofs, and overhanging eaves with pronounced corbels (i.e., brackets). The Geauga County Courthouse is also registered in the National Register of Historic Places.*



**Up Next: The Gilded Age (Victorian, Beaux-Arts, Arts-and-Crafts)**

*Acknowledgements: A special thank you for the time and assistance given by Joshua Speakman. Joshua is a professional in the field of historic preservation. He served as one of New York City's Landmarks Preservationists for 10 years before accepting his current position with the City of Pittsburgh. Joshua is a long-time friend and former classmate; he and I studied urban planning together. Thank you, Josh. - Sam*

**Where are these structures today?** You'll come across all sorts of Italianate Revival structures as you're editing in the Midwest, perhaps even while "scrolling" down the street looking for fire stations and post offices in the small towns of the prairie. [Cincinnati](#) and [San Francisco](#) are also hubs of Italianate Revival architecture.

Some excellent examples of this style in the web editor include the [Darke County Courthouse](#), the [Fulton County Courthouse](#), and the [Gauga County Courthouse](#).

## Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 7: Law Enforcement

*This article is the 6th in a series of newsletter articles highlighting aerial photo interpretation for different structure types. This month we will focus on Law Enforcement.*

Check out our past [newsletters](#) for the other articles in this series:

[September 2017](#) - Part 1: Cemeteries

[November 2017](#) - Part 2: Post Offices

[January 2018](#) - Part 3: Fire Stations and EMS

[March 2018](#) - Part 4: Prisons / Correctional Facilities

[May 2018](#) - Part 5: Hospitals

[July 2018](#) - Part 6: Ambulance Services

You may not realize it, but every time you participate in TNMCorps you are conducting aerial photo interpretation. This part of the process of editing structures can be quite fun and interesting. In order to identify the correct building associated with a structure point, you must do a little bit of detective work by searching for clues in the imagery. You may be an expert at this, or you may be new to it. Either way, here are some helpful tips and tricks for interpreting the aerial photography background layers and identifying building types.

### Law Enforcement

Much like ambulance services, law enforcement facilities can be some of the most difficult structures to identify using aerial imagery alone. Unlike [hospitals](#) or [fire stations](#), law enforcement features often lack distinct structural details, making them much more challenging to distinguish from non-law enforcement buildings.

Law enforcement facilities (e.g. police stations or sheriff's department offices) come in a variety of shapes and sizes, so we strongly encourage you to do additional [research](#) to verify that a building actually houses a police station or sheriff's office; especially if on-the-ground imagery is not available.

The following tips may help you identify the correct law enforcement building, but keep in mind that they are not hard and fast rules. As always, before editing this structure type, make sure you've reviewed the [structures definition table](#) to find out what we do and don't collect as law enforcement features.

#### Located near, or next to, fire stations

*The presence of a fire station or a city hall might indicate (but does not guarantee) that a police station is nearby. In many cities, police stations are nowhere near fire stations or city halls, but it is something to keep in mind if you come across a tricky law enforcement point. Because there is so much variation in the appearance of law enforcement facilities, always do additional research to confirm their locations.*

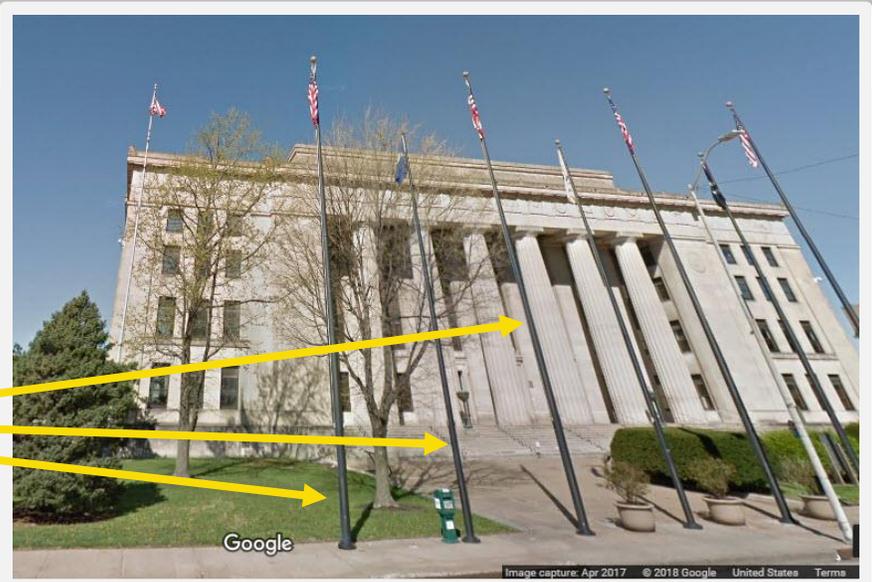


# Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 7 (Continued)

Located in or near city/town halls



One or more flagpoles near the building's entrance



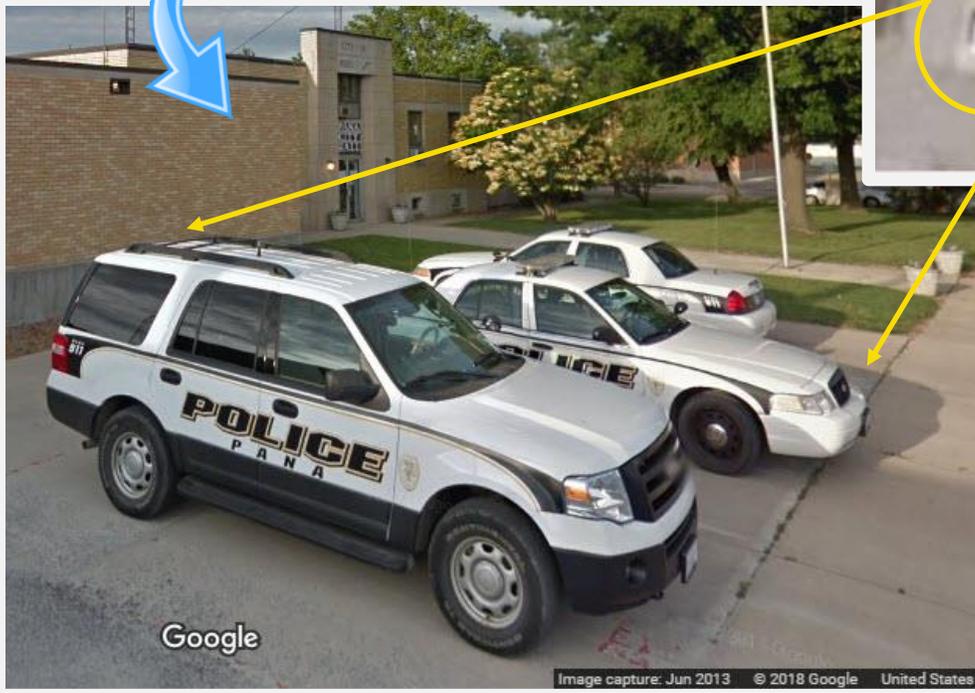
Law enforcement facilities will frequently have state and/or US flags posted near the entrance. To identify a flag pole in the imagery, look for thin, elongated shadows.

# Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 7 (Continued)

Large parking area



Patrol cars



*If on-the-ground views are available, a sign on or near the building, or vehicles parked out front, can be extremely helpful in identifying the correct law enforcement facility.*

*Keep in mind that commercial mapping services and on-the-ground views should still only be used as supplementary resources in conjunction with authoritative sources.*



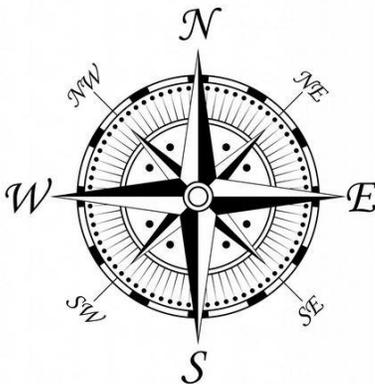


## Have a story of photo you'd like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing.

Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the “[public domain](#),” and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

Please email them to [nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov](mailto:nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov)



## New Recognition Category Members



**Squadron of Biplane Spectators (6000-6999)**



**Family of Floating Photogrammetrists (3000-3999)**

- USGSTaylor



**Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)**

- genovt



**Stadia Board Society (500-999)**

- Mungo
- rsullivan1210
- Teri2115



**Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers (5000-5999)**



**Flock of Winged Witnesses (4000-4999)**

- tmp21038



**Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)**

- EvilHag
- Birdman03
- Teri2115
- calijarjar
- awatters
- virgilturner



**Circle of the Surveyor's Compass (200-499)**

- stuart
- pi24
- Kim L. Nelson
- cdharley
- Teri2115
- lichenwangmap
- jbickeLSU



**Pedometer Posse (100-199)**

- stuart
- Sharon Fighter
- lichenwangmap
- Teri2115
- Samuel
- cdharley
- jconcah
- jbickeLSU
- Kathryn W



**Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)**

- thegridexe
- lichenwangmap
- Lu
- Samuel
- cdharley
- Daniel
- Teri2115
- jconcah
- MoeLuther
- GeographyBuff
- annaimie
- mkspencer98
- DonaldSeccombe
- Kathryn W
- jbickeLSU



**Order of the Surveyor's Chain (25-49)**

- tmiller1123
- Jeffrey Chagnard
- eewhitejr
- lichenwangmap
- rgaster
- Daniel
- Kathryn W
- Lu
- cswitser
- Teri2115
- cdharley
- mcnaughton.brock
- GeographyBuff
- mkspencer98
- MoeLuther
- jconcah
- DonaldSeccombe
- annaimie
- idmontague
- jbickeLSU
- SaltyHiker

CONTACT US AT: [nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov](mailto:nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov) for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.

